

History 225: France 1715-1848

Spring 2019

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Office Hours: M & W, 10-10:50am (or by appt.)

Room 1015, University Hall

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Course Description: It would be hard to identify another national history so explosive, creative and world-shaking as that of France between 1715 and 1848. Over these years the French blazed new trails in intellectual life, military affairs, culture and the arts. Lurching from revolution to reaction, from restoration to reform, France provided the testing grounds for much of our modern repertoire of politics, statecraft and sensibility. In this course, we will examine these movements, conflicts and trends mainly through primary source materials – philosophical tracts, memoirs, contemporary novels and period documents. While class lectures will provide the overall storyline and necessary context, the heart of this class lies in a critical engagement with the assigned readings, in which student participation and discussion will be crucial.

Required Books:

Voltaire, *Candide* (Dan Gordon translation, published by Bedford St. Martin's)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality among Men* (Helena Rosenblatt translation, published by Bedford St. Martin's)

Laura Mason & Tracy Rizzo, *The French Revolution: A Document Collection* (Cengage)

Clive Emsley, *Napoleon* (2nd ed., Routledge)

Honoré Balzac, *Colonel Chabert* (New Directions or other edition)

Additional Readings in Documentary Reader (available at Blackboard)

Class Requirements and Grading:

- a) Classroom participation (including two quizzes) counts for 20 percent of your final grade. That means, of course, that attendance is required in this class; unexcused or repeated absences will hurt your grade. Venues for class participation extend to Blackboard, where four discussion forums, addressing one or another course topic, are scheduled.
- c) Three examinations, consisting of short answer and longer essay questions, will each count for 20 percent of your course grade (60 percent altogether).
- b) One formal writing assignment (4-5 pp.) due at the beginning of Week Eight, worth 20 percent of your grade. Guidelines to be posted via Blackboard.

Course policies:

a) *No phones* out during class (not negotiable). In those cases where students use laptops for purposes unrelated to class, they will be asked (once only) to put these away.

b) *Make-up exams* will be allowed only when you can produce a valid (written) excuse.

c) *Incompletes* will only be considered in cases where the student has completed all the work up to the final exam, but cannot take the final for a valid reason.

d) *Plagiarism* in any form will be dealt with harshly. Recycling papers from the internet or elsewhere, copying other students' work, or cutting-and-pasting from other sources will be punished to the fullest extent of university policy. Count on this.

e) *Classroom citizenship*. Classroom behavior is one of many factors determining your final participation grade. Showing up prepared, answering or asking questions, taking notes and paying attention – these will be appreciated and duly noted. On the other side of the ledger: consistently showing up late, talking during class, using laptops for purposes other than note-taking and other disruptive behavior will also be duly noted. A special category in hell is reserved for those students who come to class, sign the attendance sheet, and then walk out. You really don't want to call that kind of attention to yourself.

f) *Religious holidays*. In those instances when classroom schedules conflict with religious holidays, students should provide us advance notification of their absence. We will in turn make every reasonable effort to honor these requests and make necessary accommodations.

g) *Disability accommodations*. We are committed to working with the Disability Resource Center in ensuring a barrier-free environment to all students at UIC. Please let us know as early as possible in the semester as to anticipated accommodations.

h) *Know your rights*. UIC is devoted to the principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. Freedom from discrimination for both students and employees is central to our academic mission. Students are encouraged to study UIC's policies and procedures pertaining to these issues, accessible at the web pages of the Office of Access and Equity (go to <http://oae.uic.edu/>).

Course Schedule

Chapter I: the Enlightenment

Week 1 **Introductory**

- M Class Themes and Mechanics
W “The Oldest Nation of Europe” (lecture)
F Louis XIV and Versailles. Reading: Duc de Saint-Simon & Duchess of Orleans (pp. 1-4 in Documentary Reader, hereafter DR, available at Blackboard site)

Week 2 **All that Glitters: Statecraft and Stagecraft at Versailles**

- M **No Class** (*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*)
W Film: The Rise of Louis XIV. Reading: Colbert (DR, pp. 5-7)
F French Society in the Age of Absolutism. Reading: Loyseau’s *Treatise on Orders*, in Mason & Rizzo, *The French Revolution: A Document Collection*, pp. 7-24

Week 3 **A Different Brilliance: the Enlightenment**

- M Early Enlightenment. Voltaire readings (DR, pp. 8-13)
W Enlightenment Themes & Personalities; Mason & Rizzo, pp. 32-36 (Montesquieu); also look over Gordon, “Paradoxes of Voltaire,” 1-33 (in *Candide*)
F Voltaire’s *Candide*, 41-82

Week 4 **Enlightenment, cont.**

- M *Candide*, 82-119 (**quiz** at beginning of class). **First Discussion Board entries due**
W Enlightenment on the Margins: Rousseau. Reading: *Discourse*, 1-69
F Rousseau, cont. *Discourse*, 70-127; also 141-45 (excerpts from Rousseau’s *Social Contract*)

Week 5 **Lurching towards Revolution**

- M French Imperial Reach: expansion and setbacks. Diderot reading (DR, 14-15)
W Royal Absolutism & the Failure of Reform. Mason, 29-32; Bossuet (excerpts in Rousseau, *Discourse*, pp. 129-32); Marie Antoinette letter (DR, 16)
F **First exam**

Chapter II: The Revolution

Week 6 **The Most Astonishing Thing in the World**

- M “To become something”: The Third Estate, Mason, 49-66
W Abolishing Feudalism: the Great Fear. Mason, 67-75
F Women and the French Revolution. Mason, 83-7; 109-13

Week 7 **The Elusive Search for Stability**

- M Forging Enlightened Government. Mason, 89-109; 114-24
W Things Fall Apart. Mason, 138-56. **Second Discussion Board entries due**
F War and a New Revolution. Mason, 157-70

Week 8 **Democracy and Terror**

- M The King’s Trial. Mason, 170-187.
W Sans-culottes and Popular Democracy. Mason, 189-96; 197-208

F Legislating the Terror. Mason, 221-43.

Week 9 Elite Resurgence

M The Revolution Devours its Own. Mason, 244-62. *First paper due*

W The “Thermidor Reaction.” Mason, 263-79

F The Directory: Upholding or Ending the Revolution? Mason, 281-319

Week 10 The Revolution on Horseback

M Directory and Napoleon. Mason, 288-91 (Declaration of Rights, 1795 version); 306-10 (*Advice to Cisalpine Patriots*); 317-19 (“Public Opinion in Paris”); 334-36 (Napoleon’s “Proclamation”); Emsley, 3-17

W Napoleon and the Revolution. Religious matters. Mason, 322-23; Emsley, 49-53; 99-103 (Concordat). Policing the public. Emsley, 43-47; 53-56; 95-99

F Internal rule & the Civil Code of 1804. Mason, 340-47 (excerpts from Civil Code); Emsley, 32-37; 47-49; 107-121. *Third Discussion Board entries due*

Chapter III: Restoration, Reform & Reinvention

Week 11

M Summary session: Revolutionary France 1789-1802

W **Second Exam**

F Napoleon, France’s Armies & Europe. Emsley, 17-22; 37-43; 107-15

Week 12 Age of Napoleon

M Napoleon, Europe & History. Emsley, 22-31; 57-73; 116-25; 126-31

W France and the World. Emsley, 74-84; Mason, 348-51 (Saint Domingue)

F Music & the arts: from baroque to Berlioz. Lecture & musical selections

Week 13 Restoration, Reaction, Romanticism

M Restoration France. Reading: Constitutional Charter in DR, 22-24

W Reaction and Reinvention: French Catholicism after the Revolution. Reading: de Maistre excerpts in DR, 17-22; Chateaubriand excerpts on Blackboard

F July 1830 and the “Bourgeois Monarchy.” Guizot readings in DR, 25-26.

Week 14 Culture and Social Criticism

M Schooling and nation-building. Mason, 132-37 (report on rural dialects & customs)

W Balzac’s Human Comedy. *Colonel Chabert*, 1-39

F *Colonel Chabert*, 41-101. (Short **mix & match quiz**). *Fourth Discussion Board*

Week 15 One More Revolution (and One More Napoleon)

M Revolution of 1848: from February to the June Days. Readings on the “social question,” as well as Blanc, Ledru-Rollin, Louis Napoleon excerpts in DR, 26-33

W Rescuing the Bourgeoisie from Itself? Tocqueville, excerpts from *Recollections* (available at Blackboard)

F Crawling from the Wreckage: Marx & the “Universal Brotherhood Swindle”; Marx, *Eighteenth Brumaire* excerpts (available at Blackboard)

Final exam (*date & time tba*)